THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in its 4th Assessment Report published in 2007 has reported that future climate change is expected to have considerable impacts on natural resource system. Changes in the natural environment can affect human sustenance and livelihoods. This in turn, can lead to instability often followed by displacement of people and changes in occupancy and migration patterns. However, there is no conclusive study on climate change impact on migration of people.

Threats of global warming

2434. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the climate change committee of UN has expressed concern that if global warming is not checked in time, nearly 30 per cent species on the earth would become extinct;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether millions of people are likely to face water crisis because of ground water and the melting of Himalayan glacier on the large scale would lead to heavy destruction in the Gangetic plain; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in its 4th Assessment Report published in 2007 has reported that approximately 20-30% of plant and animal species assessed so far are likely to be at increasingly high risk of extinction as global mean temperatures exceed a warming of 2-3 degree C above pre-industrial levels.

(c) and (d) Scientific studies reveal that ample reserve of ground water is available in the areas underlain by Indo-Gangetic alluvial plains in the country. In the event of global warming the rainfall pattern is projected to change which, in turn, will affect the availability of ground water in space and time, in general. The threat of global warming *inter alia* includes changes in river hydrology, increases debris production and siltation of river in down stream region.

Adverse effects of air conditioners

†2435. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have got any estimate of the total number of air conditioners in use in the country;

(b) the extent to which heat generated from these machines affects the atmosphere;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.